

OCT 12 2001

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14 MS. BUDAHL: I guess it's good evening now.  
15 I'm Maureen Budahl and I am the Nye County  
16 Health Officer. I would like to urge President Bush,  
17 Secretary Abraham, the Congressional and Senate folks  
18 and the Department of Energy to consider not only the  
19 geological suitability of the Yucca Mountain Project,  
20 but the human aspects as well -- excuse me; I ran over  
21 here. The human aspect of this project includes  
22 looking at the resources and infrastructure of the  
23 communities of Nye County that will be most impacted by  
24 this project -- Amargosa Valley, Beatty, Pahrump,  
25 Tonopah, all parts of Nye County.

0076

1 These individuals also need to consider the  
2 health implications and the medical surveillance  
3 surrounding the radiological issues related to the  
4 Yucca Mountain Project. Much of Nye County is still  
5 considered frontier by Federal standards, as it relates  
6 to not only health care, health facilities, issues and  
7 services.

8 It is imperative that the Department of  
9 Energy be prepared to assist us in building

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552450

10 infrastructures in our communities. The level of the  
11 initial emergency response to an adverse event is  
12 already in place in Nye County. We have hazardous  
13 materials response teams in northern Nye as well as  
14 southern Nye. I am also one of the hazardous materials  
15 assistants and assistant team leaders and we have the  
16 capability to responding to any sort of hazard. There  
17 are nine classifications and we have the capability to  
18 respond to all hazardous materials incidents.

19       The lack of infrastructure in this county,  
20 the roads, the lack of a hospital, access to hospital  
21 services, could potentially limit the success of our  
22 initial emergency response and individuals in  
23 Washington need to take that into consideration when  
24 they look at the Yucca Mountain Project.

25       Again, it's about more than geology, much

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1 more. Again, I'd like to urge those involved in the  
2 decision-making process as it relates to the Yucca  
3 Mountain Project to factor in the human issues, the  
4 community, in making this determination. And I  
5 appreciate the opportunity to verbalize this opinion as  
6 the Nye County Health Officer.

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552450

7        Personally, I would just like to express my  
8 support for the statements that Mary Wilson made  
9 earlier. I believe that she has had many important  
10 things to say and I think it would behoove the  
11 Department of Energy and the folks that make the  
12 decisions to really take a look at the things  
13 Ms. Wilson had to say.  
14        Thank you.